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**From:** Supplee, Gwendolyn [Supplee.Gwendolyn@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 3/30/2022 7:14:42 PM  
**To:** McKeone, Beverly D [beverly.d.mckeone@wv.gov]  
**CC:** Opila, MaryCate [Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov]; Leary, Justin [Leary.Justin@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Hi Beverly,

EPA received an inquiry from the Mayor of Morgantown regarding the Marion Energy Partners LLC Science Facility R13 air permit issued by WVDEP. I'm forwarding our response below as an FYI. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
-gwen

**Gwendolyn K. Supplee**  
Life Scientist  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3  
Air and Radiation Division  
Permits Branch (3AD10)  
Supplee.Gwendolyn@epa.gov  
215-814-2763

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**From:** Opila, MaryCate <Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:51 PM  
**To:** Supplee, Gwendolyn <Supplee.Gwendolyn@epa.gov>; Leary, Justin <Leary.Justin@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

FYI



Mary Cate Opila  
Air Permits Branch Chief  
Pronouns: she, her, hers  
US EPA Mid-Atlantic Region  
Phone 215-814-2041  
Email [opila.marycate@epa.gov](mailto:opila.marycate@epa.gov)



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**From:** Hannon, Arnita <[Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov](mailto:Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 12:55 PM  
**To:** Ferrell, Mark <[Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov](mailto:Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov)>; [jselin@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:jselin@morgantownwv.gov)  
**Cc:** [brendt@nlc.org](mailto:brendt@nlc.org); Opila, MaryCate <[Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov](mailto:Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Mark, thank you so much for your responsiveness and for your engagement with Mayor Selin. Appreciate the loop.

Arnita

M. Arnita Hannon Christmon  
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**From:** Ferrell, Mark <Ferrell.Mark@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2022 12:33 PM  
**To:** jselin@morgantownwv.gov  
**Cc:** Hannon, Arnita <Hannon.Arnita@epa.gov>; brendt@nlc.org; Opila, MaryCate <Opila.MaryCate@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** WV DEP air permit - Morgantown

Hello Mayor Selin

Thank you for taking the time to reach out. Your inquiry regarding the air permit issued by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has reached my desk.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) is the fully delegated permitting authority for the Clean Air Act for sources in West Virginia. EPA has oversight responsibilities of the WVDEP air permitting program.

As you mentioned, WVDEP has issued a construction permit to Marion Energy Partners LLC; Science Facility. The permit was issued after a 30 day public comment period. The permit regulates air emissions sources and allows for the construction and operation of four non-emergency spark-ignition engines. The permit requires emissions controlling devices to be installed on the engines.

For Clean Air Act purposes, this facility is considered a minor source of air pollutants. The EPA Region 3 Air & Radiation Division has completed a cursory review of the permit, and it appears to be consistent with applicable Clean Air Act rules and regulations.

Thank you again for your interest and outreach, Mayor Selin. I am happy to try and answer any questions you may have or provide any information you may need regarding EPA's activities and perspectives under our purview.

~Mark

**Mark Ferrell**, State and Congressional Liaison

Office of Public Affairs | U.S. EPA Region 3

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<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-region-3-mid-atlantic>

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**From:** Jenny Selin (4th Ward) <[jselin@morgantownwv.gov](mailto:jselin@morgantownwv.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2022 9:40 AM  
**To:** Carolyn Berndt <[Berndt@nlc.org](mailto:Berndt@nlc.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Upcoming Webinars - Clean School Buses and Stormwater

Issues regarding a science facility/likely cryptocurrency operation permit which has been granted by the WVDEP

In a populated valley directly across the river from Morgantown, schools, and neighborhoods:

Air pollution, equivalent to a power plant,  
Running raw natural gas through four huge engines,  
Serious sound pollution, 24 hours a day, fans needed for cooling?  
Separating the energy source analysis and the engine facility analysis when the members of the board of directors are the same and they are in the same industrial park

Our state DEP and Legislature has decided that they dont need to know the type of business they are regulating and so accepting "science facility" for a data processing center, likely a cryptocurrency or bit coin facility. Our County Commission also cannot get anyone to admit what the facility is.

The permit has been approved, now what? People in our community are frustrated, sad and angry, our rail trail, parks, newly renovated amphitheater, hotel, and restaurants are along the river across from this facility. Schools are on both sides of the river. We are a college town with federal facilities, two hospitals and the flagship university for our state.

People have written lots of letters with more specifics which I could forward.

Help!

Jenny Selin  
Mayor of Morgantown  
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